

No. 11 March 16, 1981

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY  
OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Report on Readjustment of National Economic Plan
- New Marriage Law





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### N.P.C. Standing Committee Ends Meeting

The Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress, the highest organ of state power in China, adopted at its recent meeting resolutions on the appointment and removal of several high government officials (p. 5).

### National Economic Plan

Excerpts from Vice-Premier Yao Yilin's report to the N.P.C. Standing Committee on the fulfillment of the 1980 national economic plan and policies and measures for the readjustment of the 1981 national economic plan (p. 14).

### Marriage Law

A new marriage law, adopted at the Third Session of the Fifth National People's Congress in September 1980, has come into effect this year. Full text of the new law is published in this issue (p. 24).

A vice-chairman of the All-China Women's Federation explains in an exclusive interview with our correspondents the difference between the new marriage law and the old one promulgated in 1950 and the reasons why it is necessary to have a new law (p. 21).

### OPINION DIGEST — A New Column

#### Methods of Creative Writing

Is there any creative method which can claim to be "most scientific"? This question is briefly dealt with in a digest of an article from *Essays on New Literature* (p. 29).

#### Higher Education for Workers

As part of the effort to raise the educational level of the workers, a new spare-time college in Beijing has started

classes since mid-February. Workers attending the classes continue to receive full pay (p. 31).

### China's Stand on Namibia

China condemns South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and supports the Namibian people's struggle for national independence (p. 10).

### Soviet-Australian Relations

There is at present a "freeze" in the relations between the two countries. An article explains the reason why (p. 10).



Shanghai textile workers exchanging experience.

Photo by Ding Lingen

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### CONTENTS

**NOTES FROM THE EDITORS** 3-4  
System of Responsibility in Agricultural Production — Economic Editor Wang Dacheng

**LETTERS** 4

**EVENTS & TRENDS** 5-9

N.P.C. Standing Committee Meeting Ends  
Brief Biography of Geng Biao

International Working Women's Day  
Economic Readjustment in Liaoning Province  
Chinese Leaders Meet Khieu Samphan  
N.P.C. Delegation in Europe  
CAAC Inaugural Delegation Visits the U.S.

### INTERNATIONAL 10-13

Soviet-Australian Relations — Wei Yuqin  
China's Position on Namibia  
Ecuador and Peru — Yao Chuntao  
Racist Murders?  
Oil in Black Africa — Ding Huan

### ARTICLES & DOCUMENTS

Report on the Readjustment of the 1981 National Economic Plan and State Revenue and Expenditure (Excerpts) — Yao Yilin 14

Eight Fields of Centralization and Unification 18  
Woman Leader on New Marriage Law 21  
China's Marriage Law 24

### OPINION DIGEST 28-29

Don't Confine Politics to Class Struggle  
Just One Creative Method No Good  
Earlier Than Malthus

### CULTURE & SCIENCE 30-31

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## System of Responsibility in Agricultural Production

The system of fixing farm output quotas on the household basis is now being followed in China's rural areas. Is this a restoration of capitalism?

This system is carried out in some rural areas. They are mainly poor and backward areas where the collective economy has not been well developed and hilly areas where the cultivated plots are scattered and the inhabitants live far apart.

Under this system, with the production team as the accounting unit (each team has generally over a dozen to 20 or so households), the plots of land are put under the management of the individual households on a long-term basis. After harvesting, the peasants have to hand over a fixed amount of their output to the production teams for unified distribution, but are allowed to retain whatever surplus they may have. This is one of the forms of responsibility in farm management that takes output into account.

A flexible rural policy has been adopted in the past two years. Proceeding from their own actual conditions, the people's communes in different places have through experiment established various forms of responsibility in production management. After the implementation of the system of fixing output quotas on the household basis, production in the afore-mentioned areas has developed and the livelihood

of the peasants has improved. These notable economic results have been widely acknowledged.

The system of fixing output quotas on the household basis has the following advantages:

- The principle of "to each according to his work" is effectively implemented. Under this system the commune members not only get their share of the fixed amount of output handed over to the production team for distribution, but can also keep that part of the output in excess of the fixed quota. The result is: the better the management, the greater the amount of output in excess of the fixed quota, and the more the income of the peasants. All this has enhanced the enthusiasm of the commune members for production.

- As the commune members are directly responsible for production and are given certain powers to make their own decisions, they can thus give scope to their special skills and improve management, thereby averting losses resulting from poor management of the collective economy and arbitrary directives not suited to local conditions.

- This system of responsibility is simple and convenient and therefore easy to popularize. The peasants can make the best use of their time for farm work and household side-occupations so as to increase their income.

The system of fixing output quotas on the household basis,

however, is not practised everywhere in the country. In those places where the development of production is normal and where the commune members get increasing benefits from the collective economy year after year, with their living standard steadily raised, other measures than the system discussed above are taken to improve further the management of agricultural production. In short, the question of what kind of responsibility system in farm production should be adopted hinges on local conditions and the peasants' wishes. Any system that is conducive to an increase in output and improvement of livelihood is welcomed by the commune members.

As to the nature of the system of fixing output quotas on the household basis, there has been much talk among the foreigners, and in China a few people have differing views. They consider that the implementation of this system has changed collective management into individual farming and has thus deviated from the socialist road; some even call it a "retrogression to capitalism." That some people should hold such views is probably because the influence of "Leftist" ideology and mistakes over the years has not been eliminated. Manifestations of "Leftist" errors mainly are: as regards management, there was the tendency to go after big labour organizations with large numbers of people working together; and in distribution the principle of absolute equalitarianism was adhered to. The system of responsibility and *san zi yi bao* (meaning the extension of plots for private use and of free markets, the



# LETTERS

## Wakhan Area

Before seeing the map of Afghanistan's Wakhan area in issue No. 7, I had little knowledge of the corridor's strategic importance. Now I realize the Soviet Union wants to occupy this area in order to border directly on Kashmir and find another passage-way to Pakistan. With its complete occupation of Afghanistan, it will gain access to the Indian Ocean and the Middle East. It also cherishes ambitions to dominate the areas of Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and Red Sea. The Wakhan area is thus a significant link in the Soviet Union's global strategy.

Jinji Kitamura  
Takaoka, Japan

## "Write What You Think Is Right!"

I have been a subscriber of your magazine for many years and am always very interested in what you write. I do not think you should change your articles to conform to the way we foreigners think. That would be losing your characteristic Chinese way of thinking, and we who are trying to understand your mentality would no more be able to understand it. Write what you Chinese think is right! Remain Chinese and not something else!

I would also like to make a suggestion based on my great interest in Chinese theatre. Could you talk more and in greater depth about this area? It is one of the best ways, I think, for us to understand your way of life!

Giulia Marzotto  
Milan, Italy

## Forceful Refutations

I was most interested in Hu Ping's article on the question of intellectuals and reassured by Teng Weizao and Jiang Zhesi's cogent account of the growth of the multinationals as well as your correspondent Peng Di's astute analysis of the forged anti-China document published by the U.S. House Committee. (Peng is a correspondent of the Xinhua News Agency. — Ed.)

Carol Johnson  
Beijing, China

I particularly liked the article "Ray Cline's Imperialist Bias" in issue No. 3. It was a forceful and accurate refutation of the absurdities of Ray Cline. I hope you will continue to draw attention to the superpower ambitions of the Reagan administration.

Heinz-Gunter Foerster  
Bielefeld, W. Germany

increase of small enterprises with sole responsibility for their own profits or losses, and the fixing of farm output quotas for individual households with each on its own) were for a long time criticized as "capitalist."

If the influence of "Leftist" ideology is eliminated and an analysis made objectively, then the nature of fixing farm output quotas on the household basis can be discerned easily.

According to Lenin's thesis, the basic characteristics of socialism are: (1) public ownership of the means of production and (2) the principle of "to each according to his work." If these two principles are upheld, then a clear line of demarcation is drawn between socialism on the one hand and capitalism and all other systems of exploitation on the other. As regards management, labour organization and method of remuneration, they can take diversified forms in accordance with actual conditions, and should not be in-

discriminately dubbed "capitalist."

The fixing of output quotas on the household basis is a form of organization and management within the collective economy; it cannot be regarded as a retrogression to individual economy. Under this system, the peasants are still members of the collective economy, with corresponding rights and obligations. Moreover, the means of production are still collectively owned. The peasants have the right to use the land, farm machinery, draught animals and big farm tools, but they do not own them. In addition, under this system the production team is still the basic accounting unit.

It is a fact that implementation of this system will result in some peasant households getting more income than the others because of the difference in manpower. Those households with a stronger labour force may become better off than the others. But this is essentially different from the polarization

caused by exploitation. Facts prove that fixing output quotas on the household basis has promoted production, with more public welfare funds for the production teams to help those families in difficulties, so the difference in living standard will not become increasingly big. Some peasants will become well-off first, and this will spur the others on so as to achieve common prosperity.

Of course, the system of fixing output quotas on the household basis has its shortcomings too. For instance, it may deter the purchase of farm machinery and might prove to be unfavourable to concentrating big forces to combat natural disasters. But the primary aim in areas carrying out this system is to enhance the commune members' enthusiasm for production and improve their livelihood as a whole. When this is achieved, the other contradictions can be tackled more easily.

— Economic Editor  
Wang Dacheng



**POLITICAL****N.P.C. Standing Committee Meeting Ends**

The 17th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress ended on March 6. The meeting adopted a resolution approving Vice-Premier Yao Yilin's report on the readjustment of the 1981 national economic plan and state revenue and expenditure. (See p. 14 for detailed excerpts.)

The resolution pointed out that the current economic situation is good. Major problems at present are: big financial deficits for two consecutive years, over-issuance of currency and price hikes of a number of commodities. In view of this situation, the resolution said, it is necessary and correct to make further readjustments of the national economic plan in order to stabilize the economy.

The resolution stressed that consolidation and enhancement of the present political situation of stability and unity is a prerequisite ensuring the success of the economic readjustment. It called for the strengthening of socialist and patriotic education and the restoration of fine social morals. It is imperative, the resolution added, to adhere to the four basic principles, that is, adhering to the socialist road, upholding the people's democratic dictatorship, i.e., the dictatorship of the proletariat, upholding the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and adhering to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. The resolution also urged that socialist democracy and the socialist legal system be strengthened

and that illegal activities carried out by persons hostile to socialism and other criminal activities that undermine the socialist economy and endanger social security be banned so as to facilitate the work of economic readjustment.

The meeting expressed satisfaction with the work of the Special Procuratorate and the Special Court, which were set up to handle the trial of the principal defendants of the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary cliques. As their tasks were fulfilled, a resolution was adopted to dissolve the Special Procuratorate and the Special Court.

The meeting heard Vice-Premier Ji Pengfei's explanations on the setting up of the Commission for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the State Family Planning Commission, and examined the proposal on the establishment of advisers to the State Council. Relevant resolutions were adopted at the meeting.

The meeting also decided on new appointments and removals. These include:

— Qian Zhiguang and three other senior ministers, old and experienced, have been appointed advisers to the State Council;

— Du Xingyuan, former first deputy Secretary General of the State Council, was appointed Secretary General of the State Council;

— Vice-Premier Geng Biao was appointed to hold concurrently the post of Minister of National Defence;

— Yuan Baohua, former Vice-Minister in Charge of the State Economic Commission, was ap-

pointed Minister in charge of the commission;

— Vice-Premier Kang Shien was appointed to hold concurrently the post of Minister of Petroleum Industry, and was relieved of his post of Minister in Charge of the State Economic Commission;

— Han Guang, former Vice-Minister in Charge of the State Capital Construction Commission, was appointed Minister in charge of the commission;

— Huang Zhen, former Minister of Culture, was appointed Minister in Charge of the Commission for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries;

— Vice-Premier Chen Muhua was appointed to hold concurrently the post of Minister in Charge of the State Family Planning Commission;

— Lin Hujia, former mayor of Beijing, was appointed Minister of Agriculture.

**Brief Biography of Geng Biao**

Geng Biao, the newly appointed 72-year-old Minister of National Defence, joined the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army in 1928 and took part in the famous Long March. During the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45) and the War of Liberation (1946-49), he held leading posts in the army in north China.

After liberation in 1949, he has served successively as ambassador to six countries, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Head of the International Liaison Department of the Party Central Committee. He is now Vice-Premier of the State Council, Standing Committee Member and Secretary-General of the Military Commission of the C.P.C. Central Committee.



**The State Economic Commission.** The commission is in charge of the implementation of the annual plans of industrial and transport enterprises, co-ordination in production and enterprise management.

**The Commission for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.** The commission was dissolved during the "cultural revolution." With the development of China's relations with foreign countries, it is necessary to restore this commission to promote cultural relations with other countries.

**The State Family Planning Commission.** This replaces the leading group for family planning under the State Council, the aim being to strengthen unified leadership over family planning in the country. China now has a population of 1,000 million, 65 per cent of them are below 30. The government is doing its utmost to keep the population within 1,200 million by the end of the century.

## International Working Women's Day

The All-China Women's Federation held a meeting in Beijing's Great Hall of the People to mark International Working Women's Day which fell on March 8.

Song Renqiong, Member of the Secretariat of the C.P.C. Central Committee, gave a report. He said that, at a recent meeting to discuss women's work, the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee pointed out that the women's federation should pay primary attention to the bringing up, training and education of the nation's 300 million children and teenagers.

He asked the federation to do the following:

— Give people help so that they will have happy families and correctly handle the question of marriage;

— Do a good job in family planning;

— Take prompt measures to set up more nurseries, kindergartens, recreation centres, hospitals and other welfare facilities for the children;

— Help the parents strengthen the education of their children; show concern for the well-being and training of instructors of youth work;

— Attach importance to the well-being and education of girl school-leavers waiting for jobs; and

— Work out measures to properly solve the question of labour insurance and welfare of women workers and women commune members.

In his report, Song Renqiong stressed the important role of Chinese women as a great revolutionary force. He asked the whole Party to attach importance to women's work.

Now, women cadres number 4.7 million, or 26 per cent of the total number of cadres in the country, Song Renqiong

disclosed. This is 14 times the number in 1951, two years after the founding of New China. The problem now is that women leading cadres at various levels are relatively few, particularly young and middle-aged women cadres. He underscored the importance of training and selecting women cadres, especially the young and middle-aged, to leading posts at various levels.

Deng Liqun, director of the research department under the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, also addressed the meeting. His speech dwelt mainly on the education of children and juveniles.

In her speech, Deng Yingchao, Member of the C.P.C. Political Bureau and Honorary President of the All-China Women's Federation, called on the women throughout the country to take upon themselves the task of helping train and educate the country's 300 million children and teenagers.

The meeting was presided over by President of the Women's Federation Kang Keqing.

**Gathering With Foreign Friends.** On March 7, 1,400 Chinese and foreign women gathered together to celebrate the occa-



Deng Yingchao (first from right), Honorary President of the All-China Women's Federation, giving a speech at the meeting marking International Working Women's Day.



sion. The gathering was sponsored by the All-China Women's Federation. Kang Keqing extended festival greetings to all present. The foreign guests who attended included wives of diplomatic envoys in China and women experts or wives of experts helping in China's socialist construction. A colour film, *Plum Blossom Tapestry*, was shown.

## ECONOMIC

### Economic Readjustment in Liaoning Province

Initial success has been achieved in economic readjustment in northeast China's Liaoning Province, a well-known base of heavy industry in China. Last year the province made remarkable progress in developing its agriculture and light industry and in improving the people's livelihood.

With a population of 34 million, the province where the Anshan Iron and Steel Company is located mainly produces iron and steel, coal and machinery.

**In the Cities.** Last year its total industrial output value upped by 8 per cent over 1979, of which light industrial output value rose by 25.2 per cent and that of heavy industry by 1.5 per cent. The proportion of light industry in Liaoning's industry as a whole increased from 27.2 per cent in 1979 to 31.8 per cent in 1980. An increasing number of its wrist-watches, bicycles, TV sets and other light industrial products,

which enjoy brisk sales, have found their way to the markets in other provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

Investment by the provincial government in light and textile industries last year was greater than that of the past few years, amounting to more than 320 million yuan in the first 11 months of 1980. At the same time, readjustments were made in 321 metallurgical and machine-building plants, chemical works and other industrial enterprises. Some were amalgamated and some were converted to produce much sought-after products on the market.

Statistics show that Liaoning's investment in housing, education, welfare and other non-productive projects rose from 33.3 per cent in 1979 to 40.9 per cent of the provincial budget in 1980.

**In the Rural Areas.** Grain, soya bean, cotton and oil-bearing crops are the major agricultural products in the province where the rural population accounts for 68 per cent of the total. Last year saw Liaoning's second best harvest in the 31 years after liberation, the best being in 1979. Though the output of grain and soya bean in 1980 decreased by 1.6 per cent compared with the peak year of 1979, output of oil-bearing crops, cotton, tussah and sugar beet all outstripped that of the previous year.

The total income of the peasants in the province and per-capita income from the rural collectives were the highest since liberation. There were 230 production brigades where per-capita income averaged

more than 300 yuan, double the amount in 1979.

To date, 820 homes for the aged, where 16,000 old people spend their remaining years, have been set up in about 70 per cent of the villages in the province. The living conditions of these old people had greatly improved, as a greater amount of money was allocated to cover their expenses.

Purchasing power has been raised with increase of income. The volume of retail sales in the first 11 months of 1980 was 16.3 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1979.

By the end of last December, bank savings deposits in the rural and urban areas topped 2,290 million yuan, 640 million yuan more than in 1979.

### Economic Briefs

- Gold production hit an all-time high in China last year, registering a 14.3 per cent increase over 1979. Shandong, Hebei, Liaoning and Heilongjiang Provinces, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region and other major gold-producing areas all produced more gold in 1980 than in 1979.

- Deposits of more than 50 metallic and 70 non-metallic minerals in China have been verified. In the western part of Yunnan Province, a major tin-producing area in the country, a tin ore belt with more than 20 ore-bearing points has been discovered. In north China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, a large lead-zinc deposit and a gypsum deposit have been found.

Last year a number of metallic and non-metallic mineral





China's biggest alkyl benzenes plant built in Nanjing.

deposits including tungsten, tin, molybdenum, lead, zinc and graphite were located in over a dozen provinces and autonomous regions.

• China's biggest plant for producing alkyl benzenes, a raw material for making detergent, has gone into trial-production in Nanjing. Its annual capacity is 50,000 tons.

Equipment for this plant was built by the Eurotecnica S.P.A. Milano of Italy on a patent from the Universal Oil Products Company of the United States, and was installed by Chinese workers. During the trial-operation in the past two months the quality of the product has proved to be up to international standards.

• The quality of 81 textile products from Shanghai, the nation's biggest textile industrial base, is up to the world's advanced level, 28 being new products of last year. Among these new products the quality of polyester-cotton garments compares well with the world-famous H-brand products, and silk for making ties is as good as Italian products of the same kind.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Chinese Leaders Meet Khieu Samphan

Premier Zhao Ziyang met and had a cordial conversation with Khieu Samphan, Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea, and his party on March 7. The next day, Li Xiannian, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met with the Kampuchean guests. Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Huang Hua was present on both occasions.

Prime Minister Khieu Samphan and his party stopped over in Beijing on their way to Pyongyang to meet Samdech Norodom Sihanouk who recently proposed the setting up of a national coalition government by all the patriotic forces of Kampuchea. Democratic Kampuchea welcomed the proposal and sent Khieu Samphan and his party to meet Samdech Sihanouk.

### N.P.C. Delegation in Europe

A delegation of the National People's Congress led by Hao Deqing, Member of the Standing Committee of the N.P.C. and President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, ended a three-week (February 6-March 2) visit to Britain, Malta and Greece. This was the first visit by a delegation of the N.P.C. to those countries and was, in part, reciprocating visits to China by parliamentary delegations from Britain and Malta last year.

**In Britain.** In his speech at the banquet in honour of the delegation, George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, expressed the hope that China and Western Europe will work in close co-operation for world peace and that the good relations between Britain and China will continue to develop.

In reply, Hao Deqing praised the British friends for their efforts in promoting understanding, friendship and co-operation between the Chinese and British peoples. He pointed out that the common basic interest of all countries and peoples in the world is to oppose hegemonism and safeguard world peace. If they strengthen their unity to check the hegemonists' aggression and expansion and upset their strategic deployment, he said, it is possible to win prolonged world peace.

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington met with the delegation and exchanged views on the Middle East, Kampuchea and the Polish situation. He expressed concern over the situation in Afghanistan and said that the key to solving the Afghanistan issue is for the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from that country.



Hao Deqing noted that some people consider it unnecessary to insist on Soviet troop withdrawal while trying to seek a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. This, he said, amounts to recognition of the fait accompli resulting from the Soviet invasion. He stressed that Soviet troops in Afghanistan pose a serious threat to both Pakistan and Iran, and this threat would increase if resistance against the Soviet invaders in Afghanistan should fail. Lord Carrington agreed with Hao's analysis.

On bilateral relations, Lord Carrington said that there are no problems between the two countries and that they have many things in common. He hoped that both countries will succeed in their efforts to build up their economies and, on this basis, increase trade between them.

During its two-week stay in Britain, the Chinese delegation made extensive contacts with the British people of various circles. The members also visited Scotland.

**In Malta.** The delegation met with Acting President Vincent Scerri, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and other officials of the Maltese Government on separate occasions. Speaking at the banquet for the delegation, Acting President Scerri said that Malta is proud of being an independent republic and that it will never tolerate foreign military bases on its soil. Malta, he added, has chosen to follow a policy of neutrality based on the principle of non-alignment.

Hao Deqing, in his speech, paid tribute to Malta's policies of neutrality and non-alignment and its support for the national-liberation movement and the

Arab people's just cause. China, he said, firmly supports Malta's stand that the Mediterranean Sea belongs to the peoples of the Mediterranean countries.

**In Greece.** Speaking at the banquet he gave for the Chinese delegation, President of the Greek Parliament Dimitrios Papaspyrou praised the contributions the ancient cultures of Greece and China had made to world civilization. He stressed that Greece cherishes peace and stands for negotiation to solve differences between countries by peaceful means. He added that Greece's entry into the European Community will ensure its independence and freedom and promote the unity of Europe.

In reply, Hao Deqing said that all peace-loving countries and peoples should get united and take effective measures to check hegemonist expansion and aggression so as to ensure that the international situation will move in the direction favourable to peace and stability.

He added that this was the first visit to Greece by a delegation of the N.P.C. and the aim was to enhance friendship, deepen understanding and increase co-operation.

Greek Prime Minister George Rallis met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation.

### **CAAC Inaugural Delegation Visits the U.S.**

A delegation headed by Director-General Shen Tu of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) paid a 10-day visit to the United States recently.

Consisting of 60 members, the

delegation, in addition to representatives of the CAAC, also included representatives of government organizations, cultural and art circles as well as the press. Among them was a correspondent from *Beijing Review*. The delegation which visited New York, Washington, San Francisco and the Walt Disney World in Orlando of Florida was welcomed everywhere by the U.S. Government and people.

On February 28, U.S. Vice-President George Bush met with Shen Tu and said that friendly exchanges between the two peoples are important to the promotion of American-Chinese relations.

Last January the CAAC and the Pan American World Airways opened direct air services between China and the United States. The CAAC's flight from Beijing to New York via Shanghai and San Francisco is at present on a once-a-week basis. The Pan American World Airways flight from New York to Beijing via San Francisco and Tokyo is also on a weekly basis.

The CAAC now operates many international airlines, including direct air services to Pakistan, Iran, Burma, Iraq, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sharjah of the United Arab Emirates in Asia, and Romania, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Switzerland, Britain, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in Europe, Ethiopia in Africa and the United States in North America as well as Xianggang (Hongkong). The CAAC has maintained a good record of safety flights without accidents. It is now making great efforts to further improve its services.



## Soviet-Australian Relations

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan poses a threat to peace in Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean and the security of Australia. The Australian Government's demand that Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan is just and reasonable.

At a luncheon for Australian journalists in his residence on March 3, Soviet ambassador to Australia Nikolai Soudarikov complained that it was beyond him to "evaluate" Australian foreign policy. The "freeze" in relations between the Soviet Union and Australia, he declared, has lasted long enough and Australia should "make the first move" to restore relations to their previous level. An Australian daily also quoted Soudarikov as saying that the decision to upgrade U.S. bases in Australia and to allow B-52 bombers to pass through Australia could make "Australia a target in any nuclear war."

This is not the first time the Soviet ambassador has attacked Australian policies. Earlier, at a dinner given in his honour during his visit to Tasmania, the Soviet diplomat had used the occasion to accuse the Australian Government of vilifying, "discriminating and misunderstanding Soviet high-minded policy" towards Australia. The "freeze" in relations between the two countries did not begin today, but much earlier.

The Soviet ambassador's attack drew a sharp response from Australian Prime Minister Fraser. He told the Australian House of Representatives that Australia's present stand was wholly the direct outcome of the Soviet armed occupation of Afghanistan. "Accusations to

journalists, no matter how eminent, represents an improper way of conducting relations between countries," Prime Minister Fraser said, and he made it quite clear that there could be no return to normal relations with the Soviet Union unless it withdrew its armed forces from Afghanistan.

## Soviet Threat

The Soviet armed invasion of Afghanistan poses a serious threat to countries in Southwest Asia, the Indian Ocean region and to world peace. Australia also feels its security directly threatened, which is why it has on many occasions condemned the Soviet aggression and called for an immediate Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. At the same time, Australia also made known its views on the growing number of Soviet warships and submarines cruising in waters about Australia. These pose a grave threat to its security and

## China's Position on Namibia

Ling Qing, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, in his address to the General Assembly on March 4, condemned South Africa for its illegal occupation of Namibia and voiced China's firm support for the Namibian people's struggle for national independence.

Ling Qing said, "The question of Namibia has now become the most salient issue in the decolonization struggle. Its consideration, in the present circumstances, at the resumed 35th Session of the General Assembly has a greater urgency and significance."

He pointed out that in defiance of the just demand of the international community, the South African regime has continued its cruel oppression of the Namibian people and suppression of the liberation movement. It has, moreover, frequently carried out military provocations and launched armed incursions into neighbouring African countries in an attempt to deter the frontline states from rendering support and assistance to the independence struggle of the Namibian people.

Turning to the recent Geneva meeting for the implementation of the U.N. plan regarding Namibia, Ling Qing said, "By its wilful disruption of the Geneva meeting, the South African regime has once again revealed its total lack of sincerity for a negotiated settlement of the Namibian question."

"Over a long period of time," he pointed out, "the imperialist forces, acting on behalf of their own vested interests, have emboldened and supported the South African racist regime in various ways."

"Another outside force, which has long coveted Namibia's mineral and marine resources as well as its strategic location and which has been infiltrating and expanding in southern Africa by every means, has tried hard to bring the liberation movement of the Namibian people under its control. The South African racist regime will not fail to take advantage of all this," he added.



maritime trade routes. One high-ranking Australian official pointed out that it was Soviet aggression against Afghanistan which had changed the strategic situation facing Australia.

The position and attitude Australia has adopted are just and reasonable. There is no cause for objection.

Parallel to this, Australia has also taken a series of specific steps to improve its defence capabilities. It is boosting defence spending and strengthening its naval forces. It is bringing its position into closer harmony with allied countries, such as the United States, as well as neighbouring ASEAN member states. Joint military exercises and training have been carried out and Australia is offering the United States naval and air facilities to improve regional defence capabilities and as a part of its efforts to maintain local security.

### Australian Sanctions

Australia has also temporarily suspended sales of all raw materials which could be used for the manufacture of weapons, such as uranium and alumina and other ores, denied Australian ports as of May 31, 1980 to all Soviet vessels, refused licences to export stud sheep, "severely limited" grain shipments to the Soviet Union, and suspended governmental consultations, talks and the signing of any agreements with the Soviet Union for an indefinite period. Soviet Aeroflot planes have been denied the use of all Australian airports, Soviet personnel are banned from residing in Sydney and Australia has even called off the visit of a Soviet basketball team. These are retaliatory measures by Australia against the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

Australia's strict and just stand has been repeatedly attacked by the Russians. The Soviet magazine *New Times* accused Australia of "artificially creating a security question," and *Izvestia* charged that Australia was getting sucked even deeper into the "maelstrom" of an American arms race in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. TASS severely took to task Australia's military co-operation with some members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, charging that Australia was edging ASEAN countries into the orbit of Western military preparations and spurring

ASEAN members on to "the path of militarism." The official Soviet news agency even accused Australia of inciting others from behind the scenes against the Soviet Union. Soviet radio broadcasts have also kept up a running attack on Australia.

Everyone knows, of course, that the "diplomatic freeze" in Australian-Soviet relations is Australia's reply to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Soviet attacks on Australia. The effect must not be mistaken for the cause.

— Wei Yugin

## Ecuador and Peru

ECUADOR and Peru accepted the good offices of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States and pulled back their troops from their common 1,600-km. frontier on February 26 after a month-long clash. Military leaders of both sides

The two countries have a similar history, culture and language. Moreover, they have much in common politically, economically and in foreign policy. As members of the Andean Pact Organization, they both want to see unity and co-operation among Latin American countries strengthened, regional integration advanced and hegemonism resolutely opposed. However, the fly in the ointment is their long dispute over the boundary.

### Historical Origin

The boundary dispute is an issue left over by history. There were frequent clashes even in the early post-independence years, after they had shaken off their colonial yokes, because the border was not clearly demarcated. When a large-scale border war broke out in 1941, it was Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States that persuaded the disputants to give up fighting. In 1942 the two countries signed the Rio de Janeiro Protocol and Peru held that the boundary question was permanently set-



concluded talks on March 6, and have expressed the hope that the territorial issue between the two countries will be settled peacefully. Peruvians and Ecuadorians welcome this development and the world applauds this attempt to settle the dispute by peaceful means.



bled, but Ecuador felt that it had been compelled to sign the protocol. In 1960, it publicly announced that it did not recognize the treaty with Peru and that the territory (about 180,000 square kilometres) made over to Peru in the protocol still belong to Ecuador. Thus, the border issue was kept alive. Then, when oil was found in the disputed territory a few years ago, the dispute flared up once again.

### Heavy Losses

The fighting, in intensity and scale, was the worst since 1941. Heavy losses in lives and property were sustained by both countries and relations between the two hit rock bottom. Peace in the Andean region was threatened and regional integration suffered a serious setback.

Other Latin American countries were gravely concerned and an emergency meeting called by the Organization of American States adopted a res-

olution appealing to Ecuador and Peru to exercise restraint and withdraw their armed forces from the border area.

Three weeks after a ceasefire agreement was reached through the good offices of the four mediating nations, there were still sporadic clashes. To prevent further bloodshed, a troops withdrawal was called for. This has been achieved and should effectively guarantee peace in this area.

In the last hundred years, clashes and wars between neighbouring Latin American countries were generally triggered off by boundary or territorial disputes. There are still a dozen such issues smouldering and they are a factor of instability in this continent today as in the past. But the fact that Ecuador and Peru have decided to solve their dispute by peaceful means is a good sign and augurs well for Latin American unity and stability.

—Yao Chuntao

## Racist Murders?

### Report From Washington

**I**N Atlanta, a city in southern United States, more than 20 black children have been found murdered or reported missing, maybe dead, since July 1979. Police have not found one solid lead. Black parents are angry and fearful for the safety of their children. The city has barred children under 16, unless accompanied by someone older, from the streets after 7 p.m.

The list of missing and slain black children in Atlanta is part of a longer list of murders in the United States, where the

crime rate is climbing steeply and rapidly. Last year, there were 1,790 murders in New York, more than 1,000 in Los Angeles and almost 900 in Chicago. U.S. officials say the number slain has jumped in the last few years. In smaller U.S. cities there is a similar rapid rise. In proportion to their numbers, the number of murdered blacks is much higher than for other ethnic groups. Is this not a reflection of the blacks' position in U.S. society?

The Atlanta murders are not isolated killings and the victims being black is not accidental

either. The senseless killing of black children in Atlanta is a part of the wave of racial hatred rising in the United States. White racists have shot dead innocent blacks and many have not been brought to trial. The few who have, however, have been found "not guilty" by courts. This is tacitly encouraging racism, people in the United States claim. It also explains why membership in secret racist organizations in the United States has grown in recent years. U.S. law officials point out that the notorious Ku Klux Klan, for example, has doubled its membership in recent years and now has active members in 22 states.

The recent growth of racism, crime and reaction in the United States points to deeplying social causes. It is significant that most members of the criminal KKK are under 30 years old. And despite the no-



Grief-stricken relatives of a murdered black child in Atlanta.



tority of this organization it has not been proscribed, but is protected by law.

The multiple murders of black children in Atlanta are

only a symptom, and even if the killer(s) is found, discrimination and oppression of blacks in the United States will not be ended.

## Oil in Black Africa

IT was once declared an "oil-poor" region, but no longer. Oil has been found in black Africa south of the Sahara. Some very encouraging results have been obtained by prospectors in recent years, especially in west Africa, where several countries along the Atlantic seaboard have reported promising finds 15-45 kilometres offshore.

Nigeria is producing 2.5 million barrels of crude oil a day, putting it ahead of all other black African countries. With Gabon and Angola fighting for second place, each pumping out 200,000 barrels a day. A newcomer, the Congo produces 50,000 barrels a day from its Emeraude and Loanga fields, but it hopes to push output up considerably when new wells start producing. In Cameroon, output from the oilfield exploited by Elf-Shell is over 30,000 barrels a day, with another oilfield being developed and a big refinery under construction. In other west African countries, as in Zaire, Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Benin, their daily oil outputs are about 10,000 barrels.

### The Cause

The rush to find and exploit oilfields in this part of Africa was sparked by the oil crisis of 1973, when oil-poor countries in black Africa were made to feel the full brunt of the blow. Since then, oil prices have gone up steadily, pushing oil-import

costs up sharply, and, furthermore, the developed countries have raised prices for manufactured goods to shift the burden of crisis on to the importing countries. Black African countries have sustained heavy losses in foreign trade and in their balance of international payments. It is estimated that the last price hike in oil in 1979 alone made countries south of the Sahara pay out an extra 6.5 billion U.S. dollars. This has had a tremendous impact on the economies and the lives of the people of these countries. After the war between Iran and Iraq broke out last September, oil exports from these two fell considerably, raising grave anxiety in countries dependent on Iran and Iraq for their oil supply, such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and the Ivory Coast.

Difficulties brought on by price hikes and the uncertainty of supplies and their own fragile economies have spurred black African countries to step up measures to find oil using foreign capital.

### The Impact

In west Africa, Equatorial Guinea has demarcated its territorial waters preparatory to exploring for offshore oil. Exploratory work is being energetically organized by Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Togo is already drilling off its coast.

The wells in Guinea-Bissau will probably turn the country into a wealthy one before long.

In east Africa, intense prospecting is being carried out in Tanzania, the Seychelles and Madagascar in areas close to the shore. In the interior of the continent, Niger has begun drilling, while Chad and the Sudan have already struck oil. In southern Africa, Botswana has announced that a general survey has revealed geological structures possibly containing oil and gas under the Kalahari Desert.

Although outputs in most black African countries are still small, they are having a huge impact on the national economies because these countries consume relatively little oil. For example, the daily output of Benin will soon reach 15,000 barrels, quite enough to satisfy domestic demands, which saves the government from having to worry about foreign exchange for oil imports.

### Three Categories

In black Africa, where oil is concerned, three categories of countries have emerged. In the first are those wholly or partially dependent on imports, such as Kenya, Mozambique and Malawi. These countries are in the most difficult position. In the second, are those already producing or will probably produce enough oil to meet their own needs, such as the Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Benin. In the last category are those which may become important oil exporters, such as Cameroon and the Congo. Equatorial Guinea is in a position to do so. Oil, the lack of it or the finding of it, is changing the political and economic face of Africa.

— Ding Huan



# Report on the Readjustment of the 1981 National Economic Plan and State Revenue and Expenditure

(Excerpts)

Yao Yilin

*On February 25, at the 17th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress, Yao Yilin, Vice-Premier and Minister in Charge of the State Planning Commission, delivered a three-part report on the fulfilment of the 1980 national economic plan, and the major content as well as policies and measures for the readjustment of the 1981 national economic plan. The following are excerpts of the report. Boldface subheads are ours. — Ed.*

## I. Fulfilment of the 1980 National Economic Plan

**G**ENERALLY speaking, the results of the 1980 national economic plan were better than what had been predicted at the Third Session of the Fifth National People's Congress held last August.

**Rural Areas.** 'Clear evidence of the excellent economic situation is the steady improvement of conditions in China's vast rural areas which now have a population of 800 million. Due to the implementation of a series of correct agricultural policies of the Party and government and the arousing of enthusiasm of rural cadres and commune members for production, we reaped another comparatively good harvest in 1980 despite a serious flood in the south and a serious drought in the north, fairly uncommon phenomena during the last decades. The total grain output is estimated to have reached 316 million tons, second only to that of 1979, which was the highest since the founding of New China. Cotton output is estimated to have reached 2.6 million tons, a record high in the history of New China and an increase of 400,000 tons or 20 per cent over the previous year. The output of oil-bearing and sugar crops both showed increases of more than 10 per cent over

1979, which was also a bumper harvest year for these crops. The diversification of the economy and sideline occupations continued to develop and the rural economy became more lively. In 1979 and 1980, the peasants increased their incomes from the growth of agricultural production and the rise in the state's purchasing prices of major agricultural and sideline products. The increase in the state's purchasing prices alone brought an additional income of 25,800 million yuan to the peasants in those two years.

What is particularly inspiring is that, in a short period of one or two years, many poverty-stricken areas have effected a fundamental change, no longer depending on grain resold to them by the state, loans for production and relief subsidies. The income of the collective and individual peasants has shown a marked increase. The social order in the vast countryside is stable and the peasants feel secure and happy. The relationship between the cadres and the masses has greatly improved and the prestige of the Party and government among the broad masses of the peasants has risen.

**Industrial Structure.** Additional evidence of the improved economic situation is the beginning of a rational and co-ordinated development within the industrial structure. In 1980, there was further development in the objective of having light industrial growth surpass that of heavy industry. Light industrial output value in 1980 is estimated to have increased by 17.4 per cent over 1979 instead of the planned 8 per cent increase, while the comparatively low growth of 1.6 per cent in heavy industry, compared with the past years, was complemented by an improvement of the quality, variety and specifications of heavy industrial products. While energy production dropped by 2.9 per cent



from the previous year, total industrial output value for 1980 is estimated to have increased 8.4 per cent, topping the planned increase of 6 per cent.

The development of production has continuously improved the living standards of the workers and staff. The average annual wage of the workers and staff in state-owned enterprises or units in 1980 is estimated to have risen by nearly 80 yuan compared with 1979. Nine million people in cities and towns were given employment in 1979, and another 7 million in 1980. The speed of urban housing construction was further accelerated. It is estimated that over 78 million square metres of floor space were completed in 1980, an increase of no less than 15 million square metres over the previous year.

**Livelihood of the People.** Owing to the development of industrial and agricultural production and the increase of income of the workers and peasants, the total amount of urban and rural purchasing power in 1980 registered an increase of more than 30,000 million yuan over 1979. The total volume of retail sales is estimated to have reached 207,100 million yuan, an increase of some 11 per cent over the previous year if the price rises are taken into account. Rural fairs and urban agricultural and sideline produce markets are brisk. They have played a fairly good role in supplementing the defects of state and collective commerce. The excellent situation of market supply in the cities in 1980 has not been witnessed in years.

The total volume of exports in 1980 went up by 32 per cent, and imports by 19.8 per cent (14.3 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively if the price rises are taken into account). The foreign trade deficit dropped from 1,870 million U.S. dollars in 1979 to 570 million dollars in 1980.

The development of the national economy in 1980 is further proof of the correctness of the principles and policies formulated since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee and the policy of readjustment, restructuring, consolidation and improvement. The economic situation is excellent, a situation rarely seen since the founding of the People's Republic.

**Ridding the Economy of Its Potential Dangers.** In such an excellent situation, why do we say that there are still potential dangers and it is necessary to carry out further readjustment? Because the fulfilment of the 1980 national economic plan has revealed several problems



Good cotton harvest in Fugou County, Henan Province.

that call for our serious consideration. The major trouble spots are the successive big financial deficits, the over-issuance of currency and the price rises for many commodities.

In 1980, state revenues (not including foreign loans) exceeded the budget figure by 700 million yuan, whereas state expenditures were 4,800 million yuan above the budget figure. As a result, the deficit was 12,100 million yuan instead of the originally budgetary deficit of 8,000 million yuan. The larger deficit led to an increase in the overdraft from the bank. Originally, the bank had planned to issue 3,000 million yuan of currency in 1980, but it issued 7,600 million yuan, surpassing the planned figure by 4,600 million yuan. Because of the increased amount of currency in circulation on the market and the failure of the supply of commodities to correspondingly rise, the annual average retail prices in 1980 went up by about 6 per cent over the previous year. Among them, the retail prices for foodstuffs increased by 13.8 per cent.

These problems in state finances and commodity prices show that still better work must be done with regard to economic readjustment.

For a long time in the past, under the guidance of a "Left" ideology, the scope of capital construction was over-extended and over-high targets were set for industrial production. And



Lin Biao and the gang of four sabotaged our economy for 10 years. The result was that some major sectors of the national economy were seriously out of proportion, and the livelihood of the people both in cities and the countryside did not improve as it should have for many years. In 1979 and 1980, we carried out the principle of economic readjustment, raised the purchasing prices of agricultural and sideline products by a big margin, found more jobs for people, raised the wages of workers and staff and instituted a bonus system. All these were necessary measures which played an important role in arousing the enthusiasm of urban and rural labourers for production and in promoting the development of industrial and agricultural production. Without these important measures, the excellent economic situation would not exist today.

Consumer expenditures for improving the livelihood of the people were greatly increased, state revenue decreased, and the investment for capital construction in the state budget was brought down a little, but not enough. The problem is that under these conditions a number of administrative expenditures, including those for national defence and for state organs and public undertakings, continued to increase. China is a developing country which has recently emerged from 10 years of chaos. It is faced with the dilemma of wanting to undertake so many things in accordance with the sentiments of the populace but, due to limited strength, cannot undertake all tasks at once. As we did not pay enough attention to the latter, total state expenditures for capital construction and consumption purposes surpassed revenues. If we allow this situation to continue, it will produce serious and multifaceted conse-

quences. We must strive to avoid such a danger, though it is still in a hidden stage.

The policy of further economic readjustment was not formulated just to solve immediate problems and extricate the economy from its potential dangers. It has a far more positive and profound significance. It will enable our whole economic work to become disencumbered from the malady of aiming for quick results and to be based on actual conditions in China. In doing everything, it will help us accomplish what is possible and put the stress on practical results and steady development. Then we can closely integrate economic development with proper improvements in people's living standards and ensure a concerted, steady and healthy advance of the socialist modernization programme.

## II. Major Content and Measures for the Readjustment of the 1981 Economic Plan

The principle of readjustment of the national economy adopted in 1979 clearly stipulated that, in view of the serious imbalances in the economy, the task of the readjustment was to readjust the disproportionate relationships so as to achieve a comparatively co-ordinated development between agriculture, light industry and heavy industry, as well as between the various industrial branches, and to reach a rational ratio between accumulation and consumption.

**Balancing Revenues and Expenditures.** The primary task in the continued readjustment of the disproportionate relationships in the economy this year is to achieve, first of all, an overall balance between revenues and expenditures, and on this basis, to achieve a credit balance, to stop the issuance of currency for financial purposes and to stabilize prices in the main.

State revenues for 1981 were originally targeted at 107,400 million yuan (not including foreign loans). They were readjusted to 97,600 million yuan because of the readjusted cut in the output of oil and coal, the decrease of income of industrial enterprises, and the decrease of revenue from industrial and commercial taxes, plus the increase in the foreign trade

A village fair in Guizhou Province's Guiding County





deficit and the subsidy used for grain purchases and sales. State expenditures, which were originally estimated at 112,400 million yuan, were reduced to 97,600 million yuan, thus balancing revenues and expenditures.

**The Concrete Content and Major Measures of This Year's Readjustment** are as follows:

—Further reduce capital construction investments. The 1981 appropriations for capital construction will be reduced from the originally planned 55,000 million yuan to 30,000 million yuan. We must suspend projects which lack suitable conditions for construction, or projects which, if built, would lack the conditions for production (including imported projects), as well as overlapping projects which compete with existing enterprises for raw material, fuel and energy. Capital construction investments should be concentrated on projects which can meet urgent production needs, can be completed and put into operation quickly or auxiliary projects, on housing for workers and staff and on urban public utilities.

—Reduce expenditures on national defence, public undertakings and administration. Every item must be carefully calculated and strictly budgeted. It must be below, not above, the planned sum.

—Run agricultural and industrial production well. It is necessary to make continued efforts to carry out rural economic policies and perfect and stabilize various systems of responsibility in agricultural production. The rural areas should strive to increase their harvests and achieve an all-round development of their diversified economy while raising the output of grain. Grain production must be given first place except in counties (banners) where animal husbandry and forestry occupy the dominant place and in areas of industrial crops.

We must attain at least an 8 per cent increase in light industrial output value, and should strive for more. All light industrial enterprises should endeavour to reduce consumption, raise product quality and turn out more products which sell well on the market.

The target for steel production this year, originally set at 35 million tons, is being lowered to 33 million tons, thus allowing the fuel,



The model of the Tayuan residential quarter designed by the architectural department of Beijing's Qinghua University.

energy and transport facilities, which would have been used, to go to light industry. All heavy industrial enterprises with appropriate conditions (including military enterprises) must study the needs of the market and take an active part in manufacturing consumer goods in a planned way. Metallurgical, chemical and machine-building industries must carry out production in strict accordance with the social demands, reduce the production of goods whose supply exceeds demand and increase the production of goods whose supply falls short of demand.

—Economize on energy consumption. In order to gain a proper ratio between reserves and extraction and ensure safe production, the originally planned oil output of 106 million tons for 1981 has been reduced to 100 million tons and the originally planned coal output by mines whose products are distributed by the state has been lowered from 359 million tons to 338 million tons. Therefore, it is necessary to step up efforts to save energy in order to ensure increases in industrial production with decreased energy output.

—Consolidate and reorganize existing enterprises. All enterprises must work hard to improve production order and completely change the state of no one taking responsibility in many links of production and management and of great waste. In addition, the unhealthy tendency of raising prices without authorization and excessively issuing bonuses must be corrected. Enterprises whose products are of poor quality and do not sell well on the market and which have high consumption and incur big losses must be closed down, stopped, integrated



with other enterprises or changed to turn out other products. So should backward enterprises which compete with advanced enterprises for raw material, fuel, power and transport facility, especially backward small enterprises. Priority should be given to integration and shifting production to other items.

—Ensure basic stabilization of prices. For this purpose, in addition to strictly controlling the issuance of currency and striving to produce more consumer goods, the state will ask the commercial, foreign trade and materials departments to put part of their commodities in stock on the market and, at the same time, continue to withdraw the currency not issued for trading purposes.

—Improve people's living standards. Various steps will be taken to find work for urban youth who are waiting for jobs. The state will gradually provide for appropriate increases in the wages of the workers and staff members who work in scientific research, cultural, educational and health institutions and government departments and do not receive bonuses and whose living standards are affected by the price rises. The state will pay basic wages to workers and staff members working on projects which are ordered to stop or postpone construction, and those in state enterprises which are instructed to close down or stop production. Every effort will be made to continue the construction of urban public utilities and residential housing.

—Strengthen the centralization and unification of management. Since economic readjustment is extremely complicated, unified measures and direction are required in the country as a whole to solve many important problems, especially that of keeping the whole nation's finances and credit in balance. (For details see box.)

—Issue treasury bonds and borrow from the surpluses of local governments. The State Council has decided to issue 4,000 to 5,000 million yuan in treasury bonds in 1981 to compensate for part of the central government deficit of 1980. The bonds will primarily be issued to state-owned enterprises, collectively owned enterprises, departments in charge of enterprises and local governments. They may be bought by government departments, organizations, army units, public undertakings and prosperous rural communes and brigades. They may also be bought by individuals out of their own will. Although revenues and expenditures in 1981

will be balanced in the country as a whole, the central government will still have a deficit of around 8,000 million yuan while quite a number of local governments will have financial surpluses. Therefore, these localities will be required to lend a total sum of about 8,000 million yuan of their surpluses to the central government. The necessary concentration of financial power, material and other resources by the central government might cause difficulties to various localities. But, this is the only way at present to keep the country's whole economic situation stable and prevent overall economic

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## **Eight Fields of Centralization And Unification**

1. All localities, departments and enterprises must resolutely carry out the principles, policies and major measures drawn up by the central government.

2. All funds for capital construction must be controlled by the State Planning Commission. The scale of construction and related investments in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities must be examined by the State Planning Commission and approved by the State Council, and the capital construction of all the ministries and commissions under the State Council must be put under the unified management of the State Planning Commission.

3. Financial and taxation systems as well as major financial measures must be centralized and unified, and then strictly followed by all localities, departments and enterprises.

4. The systems for credit and cash management must be strictly adhered to, and credit should be well controlled.

5. All localities, departments and enterprises must fully carry out plans for allocating important materials, including important agricultural and sideline products and raw materials, which are prescribed by the state.

6. Price control regulations must be devised to strengthen this work. Unauthorized price rises and disguised price rises must be resolutely curbed.

7. The system of rewards stipulated by the state must be correctly carried out, and strict examination and supervision should be exercised so as to prevent the excessive issuance of bonuses and other welfare fringe benefits.

8. The unified management of foreign trade and foreign exchange must be strengthened.



instability which might inflict heavier losses on the various localities.

**A Positive Policy.** Readjusting the national economy is a positive policy. To carry out this policy requires a certain amount of retrogression in some fields and full implementation. The temporary and partial retrogression will ensure all-round, stable and long-term development of the national economy. Other fields where progress is required can still go forward. Carrying out the policy of readjustment in an all-round way and fully practising the measures of this retrogression and progress where they are necessary will promote rather than delay the modernization of the country in the long run.

**Mainly Relying on Our Own Efforts but Not Closing the Country to the World.** In a populous, large country like ours, modern construction must mainly rely on our own efforts; that is, mainly rely on our own industrial foundation, on our technical strength and domestic market. This basic principle is inalterable. But this does not mean we will close our country to international exchanges. It is also our inalterable principle to develop economic and technical co-operation and exchanges with foreign countries on the basis of the principle of equality and mutual benefit. During the period of economic readjustment, we will adequately reduce the scale of importing equipment and will correspondingly rearrange certain joint projects with other countries. But this is not a signal of a change of policy. With the progress of our economic readjustment and the development of our national economy, the scope of our economic co-operation and technical exchanges with foreign countries will become increasingly larger.

A new production line in Shanghai for producing large-screen picture tubes.



### III. Strive to Raise Economic Results, Promote the Steady Progress of the National Economy

The economic readjustment requires a cut-back in capital construction investments. At present, the key to ensuring a steady advance in social production at a certain speed lies in raising the economic results by a big margin in all fields while doing a good job of carrying out the readjustment.

**Change the Principle for Economic Development.** Ours is a country with a population of nearly 1,000 million, over 800 million of which reside in the countryside. As the country's economic foundation is weak, high accumulation will not help improve the people's living standards on the basis of expanded production. In order to develop our country's economy, careful calculations and strict budgeting are necessary along with efforts to raise economic results and reduce the funds and materials needed for creating more social wealth. Hence, a huge change must be effected in our principle of economic development.

One serious mistake we made in directing the economic work was that we always attached importance to capital construction to the neglect of production and management. This readjustment must resolutely change this state of affairs. We must not hinge our economic development on increasing capital construction projects, setting up new enterprises and increasing energy and raw material consumption in large quantities. Instead, we must give full play to the role of our existing enterprises. Through this readjustment, we will set right the guiding principles of our economic work. We will enable our economic construction to base itself on China's reality and ability, advance in a systematic way and bring substantial results. We will also blaze a new road of steady development which is based on increased economic results.

**Economic Restructuring to Continue.** Another necessary way to markedly raise economic results is to continue to restructure the country's economy in a manner which is beneficial to the readjustment.



Performing a quality test at the Beijing General Internal-Combustion Engine Plant.

The country's poor economic returns in production, construction and circulation, and the irrational structure of the national economy cannot be separated from the drawbacks of our current economic setup. It is impossible for us to fundamentally improve management and raise the results of economic activities if this setup is not reformed.

The initial reforms made in restructuring our economy since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee are correct in their orientation and have gained good results. Now, the rural economy is prospering and industrial and mining enterprises are being revitalized. One of the major reasons is the structural reforms which have fired people's enthusiasm. Without these reforms, today's situation would be out of the question. Unavoidable defects and problems emerged during the process of restructuring and we are now adopting measures to solve them one by one. We will continue to restructure our economy, and this orientation is unshakable.

Reforms over the past period that have proved effective should be encouraged, resulting successes should be consolidated and developed, and new reforms should be made on a trial basis step by step under proper leadership. These measures include:

— Ensuring the rights of rural communes, brigades and teams to decide their production schedules under the state plan;

— Continuing the experimental work in the more than 6,000 enterprises which are involved in enlarging their rights to make their own decisions. Seriously sum up their experiences so as to gradually perfect the various measures adopted by them;

— Continuing to practise the enterprise fund system\* or the system of taking responsibility for one's own finances\*\* in those enterprises which are not involved in this experiment;

— Continuing the practice of a small number of enterprises and cities engaging in the experiment of paying taxes rather than handing over profits to the state, practising independent business accounting and taking responsibility for their own profits and losses. Summing up their experiences;

— Continuing regulation through the market under the state plan. Responsible departments should strengthen their work of market forecast and adopt necessary administrative measures so as to avoid anarchy;

— Allowing the adequate development of an urban economy of individual ownership, on the condition that public ownership remains the predominant element.

A good job done in the above reforms will not hinder but benefit the readjustment. As a matter of course, during the period of readjustment, all reforms should be subjected to this

*(Continued on p. 27.)*

\* Under this system a state-owned enterprise can receive a fund which is equivalent to a certain proportion of the total wages of its workers and staff members, if it fulfils the four state targets of output, quality, profit and contracts for supplying products. The fund is used for expanding production, developing collective welfare and issuing bonuses. This system has been adopted since 1978.

\*\* Since 1980, the state has implemented a system of overall financial responsibility in government administrative organs and public undertakings. Their expenses are fixed by the state according to their personnel and the amount of work. If they spend less, they may retain the surplus part. If their spending surpasses the fixed amount, they must make up for the difference themselves.



# Woman Leader on New Marriage Law

*In an interview with "Beijing Review" correspondents, Luo Qiong, Vice-Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation, told them that the new marriage law which came into effect on January 1, 1981 would consolidate and develop the socialist marriage and family system, protect freedom of marriage, enforce monogamy and make for equality between men and women. — Ed.*

**Question:** Why was it necessary to put out a new marriage law, since there was one promulgated in the early 50s?

**Answer:** Our first marriage law was promulgated on May 1, 1950, after the founding of New China. Since great changes have taken place in China politically, economically and culturally in the past 30 years, this law no longer reflects the new conditions. For instance, the General Principles of the earlier law prohibited concubinage, child betrothal and interference in the remarriage of widows. This was because discrimination against and oppression of women, as practised in old China, were still quite common in those days. Now that this is no longer the case, these provisions have been deleted from the General Principles of the new marriage law.

The feudal marriage and family system was the main destroyed after the enforcement of the first law, but vestiges and influences of the old system still persisted. Particularly during the 10 years when Lin Biao and the gang of four held sway, morals degenerated and there was a certain resurgence of old ideas and customs. Hence the need for a revised law, aimed at doing away with remnant feudal ideas and bourgeois influences.

China's legal system was ineffectual during the 10 chaotic years. Many young people under 30 did not even know that there was a marriage law governing such matters as courtship, marriage, divorce and family relations. So the promulgation of the new marriage law aims at providing legal education regarding marriage



Luo Qiong.

and helping young people acquire a correct attitude towards marriage and the family.

**Q:** Would you tell us something about the background history of the marriage law?

**A:** The marriage law was the first law published after the founding of the People's Republic of China.

During thousands of years of feudal society, the salient features of the marriage and family system were arbitrary arrangement of marriage by parents, inequality between men and women and disregard of the interests of the children. Concubinage and polygamy were permitted.

The Chinese Communist Party has all along advocated freedom of marriage, emancipation of women, and reform of the old marriage and family system. Back in November 1931, Marriage Regulations of the Soviet Republic of China were published in the Jiangxi revolutionary base area. Three years later, the regulations after revisions became the Marriage Law of the Soviet Republic of China which clearly stipulated the "elimination of all feudal, arbitrary, compulsory and mercenary marriage procedures," and banned the system of "child brides and polygamy." These principles were later included in the marriage law promulgated on May 1, 1950.

**Q:** What role did the 1950 marriage law play?

**A:** This can be considered from three aspects.

First, the promulgation of the marriage law was a major social reform which concurred with the Land Reform Movement (1950-52). This law uprooted the feudal marriage system and established the new-democratic marriage system. Therefore, it was an enormous step forward for the whole country. Those who took part in the

Land Reform Movement know how many women in the vast countryside suffered under the feudal marriage system. Countless women got killed or committed suicide in their attempt to resist arranged marriage. Many girls could not marry men of their choice. Worse still, sometimes the bride had to go through a marriage ceremony with a wooden figure, a wooden or stone tablet or a rooster if her betrothed happened to die before the wedding. She was forced to remain single all her life. So the marriage law was a great blow to the feudal marriage and family system which had persisted for over 2,000 years.

Second, in 1953 when the marriage law was publicized all over the country, its effect was conspicuous. Investigation of 27 provinces and municipalities in 1955 showed that 95 per cent of the marriages were in conformity with the marriage law. In 1957, the number of women staff and workers in industrial and other departments was five times greater than in 1949; in agricultural producers' co-operatives, 40 per cent of the total field work was done by women members. This showed that the law had really liberated women from the barbarous, feudal marriage system.

Third, the marriage law greatly enhanced the enthusiasm of young people politically and in production. In the old society women were kept at home. It was regarded a disgrace for them to do field work, and some women worked in the fields secretly. After liberation the Party and the government paid special attention to praising advanced personages, and many women became model workers. It became an honour for women to take part in production. In 1957, 70-80 per cent of China's 756,000 agricultural producers' co-ops had women chairmen or vice-chairmen. In the meantime, free marriage and good family relations prompted the young men to work harder.

**Q:** Is there any difference between the two marriage laws?

**A:** The two laws are more or less the same with regard to such questions of principle as freedom of marriage, monogamy, equal rights for both sexes, protection of the interests of women and children, prohibition of arbitrary or mercenary marriage, and of exacting money or gifts in connection with marriage.

However, some new provisions are included in the new law. For instance, protection of the lawful rights of the aged is stipulated in the General Principles. Respect for the aged and love for the young are age-old moral precepts

upheld by the Chinese. However, during the 10 years of turmoil, social morals were undermined and egotism began to gain ascendancy. Some refused to support their old parents on the grounds that this was following the feudal moral code which should be criticized. The new marriage law stipulates: "Children have the duty to support and assist their parents." This legal assurance fully shows concern for the old people.

The principle of family planning is included in the new law. China has a big population. In previous years, the population growth rate, which was high owing to poor family planning, was not in conformity with the development of the national economy. Therefore, it is necessary to control population growth in the interest of the four socialist modernizations.

Another major revision is in respect to the minimum age for marriage. The new law stipulates that both sexes should be at least two years older than the age set in the 1950 law. The new law also stresses that late marriage and late childbirth should be encouraged. In the course of drawing up this law, more than once opinions were solicited all over the country, particularly from medical doctors and other experts. There were diverse views regarding the marriage age. This is because there are differences in prevailing conditions between the city and the countryside and in physiological maturity between youth in south and north China. Considering the situation in most of the country and the physiological characteristics of young people as well as the need for family planning, it was decided that the minimum age for marriage should be 22 years for men and 20 years for women.

Besides, the new law also stipulates that marriage is not permitted between collateral relatives by blood (up to the third degree of relationship). This proceeds from the standpoint of eugenics. The stipulations that "a man may become a member of the woman's family" and that the "children may adopt their mother's family name" are manifestations of equality between men and women. These additions have been made because of new conditions.

**Q:** What is the new law's attitude towards divorce?

**A:** In this regard, the new law is basically the same as the early law except for one addition: "In cases of complete alienation of mutual affection, and when mediation has failed, divorce should be granted." There are reports that the divorce rate has increased since the publication



of the new law. This is because in the past the judicial organs tended to be overly restrictive in granting divorce. If one party, especially the woman, objected to the divorce, the court, generally speaking, would not grant it. However, in real life, a marriage in the absence of mutual affection only brings suffering to both parties, and sometimes even leads to serious violations of the law. For these reasons the new regulations are less restrictive in granting divorce.

Of course, we oppose those who desert their wives or husbands irresponsibly for someone else. In China this act of moral degeneracy is condemned by public opinion. Generally speaking, the divorce rate in China is rather low. Statistics from Beijing's Xicheng District showed that the ratio between the couples who got married and those divorced in 1979 was 100: 0.6. As for cases in which a divorce is asked for on the spur of the moment, the women's federation, the court and the units in which both parties work try to mediate and help the couple reunite. Since 1973, a neighbourhood branch of the women's federation in Tianjin's Heping District has helped 26 couples who had applied for a divorce get rid of their misgivings and re-establish good family relations.

**Q:** Is there genuine equality between men and women in the family?

**A:** I think, in most families the answer is yes. Equality between men and women is not only guaranteed by law, it is also determined by the economic status of both parties. In cities, it is quite common for both husband and wife to be wage-earners and to share responsibility for family expenditures, household chores and for

bringing up the children. In the countryside, women are no longer confined to household chores. They have also become an important part of the work force in the fields, especially since the adoption of the new system of fixing work and output quotas in 1979, under which rural commune members are paid according to their skill or the amount of work done. In some cases, such as in tea-picking, cotton-planting, knitting and embroidering, women get higher pay than men because they are more skilled. In most families, the old habit of men enjoying higher status than women has been changed and women have gradually enjoyed equal rights with men.

**Q:** What is the general situation of marriage and the family in China? What problems still exist?

**A:** In feudal society, there used to be big families, sometimes with four or five generations under one roof. Economic power was in the hands of the head of a family and as this denied anybody else the opportunity to voice opinions before any decision was made, there were many disputes over money and possessions. Today, the general trend is to have small families, with at most three generations under one roof. Since the means of production are publicly owned in China, wage-earners need not worry about being unemployed and families have an assured income. Families are small and, with their emphasis on socialist morality and democracy, the members are generally on good terms.

However, old ideas somewhat reasserted themselves owing to the 10 years of turmoil and shortcomings on the part of the Party and the government. In some areas, marital affairs are crudely interfered with by parents, and this sometimes results in criminal offences. It is quite common for a girl's family to extort money and gifts from the young man's family as a precondition for marriage. In some places, especially in remote mountain villages, women are sometimes maltreated, even to a serious extent on some occasions, though this is not a common occurrence. Soon after the All-China Women's Federation resumed work in 1978, it emphasized, in its publicity and education, the necessity for adopting and practising socialist ideas in dealing with marriage and the family.

Publicizing and implementing the new marriage law, abolishing feudal vestiges and resisting bourgeois ideas will remain a long and arduous task. □



Shanghai ballet dancer Zhu Meili with her family.

# China's Marriage Law

*Following is an unofficial translation of the full text of the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China adopted at the Third Session of the Fifth National People's Congress on September 10, 1980. — Ed.*

## Chapter I General Principles

**Article 1** This law is the fundamental code governing marriage and family relations.

**Article 2** The marriage system based on the free choice of partners, on monogamy and on equal rights for the sexes, is put into effect.

The lawful rights and interests of women, children and the aged are protected.

Family planning is practised.

**Article 3** Marriage upon arbitrary decision by any third party, mercenary marriage and any other acts of interference in the freedom of marriage are prohibited. The exaction of money or gifts in connection with marriage is prohibited.

Bigamy is prohibited. Within the family maltreatment and desertion are prohibited.

## Chapter II Marriage Contract

**Article 4** Marriage must be based upon the complete willingness of the two parties. Neither party shall use compulsion and no third party is allowed to interfere.

**Article 5** No marriage shall be contracted before the man has reached 22 years of age and the woman 20 years of age. Late marriage and late childbirth should be encouraged.

**Article 6** Marriage is not permitted in any of the following circumstances:

a) Where the man and woman are lineal relatives by blood or collateral relatives by blood (up to the third degree of relationship).

b) Where one party is suffering from leprosy, a cure not having been effected, or from any other disease which is regarded by medical science as rendering a person unfit for marriage.

**Article 7** Both the man and the woman desiring to contract a marriage shall register in

person with the marriage registration office. If the proposed marriage is found to be in conformity with the provisions of this law, registration shall be granted and a marriage certificate issued. The relationship of husband and wife is established when a marriage certificate is acquired.

**Article 8** After a marriage has been registered, the woman may become a member of the man's family, or the man may become a member of the woman's family, according to the agreed wishes of the two parties.

## Chapter III Family Relations

**Article 9** Husband and wife enjoy equal status in the home.

**Article 10** Husband and wife each has the right to use his or her family name.

**Article 11** Both husband and wife have the freedom to engage in production, to work, to study and to participate in social activities; neither party is allowed to restrain or interfere with the other.

**Article 12** Husband and wife are in duty bound to practise family planning.

**Article 13** The property acquired during the period in which husband and wife are under contract of marriage is in the joint possession of the two parties unless they have agreed otherwise.

Husband and wife enjoy equal rights in the management of the property in their joint possession.

**Article 14** Husband and wife have the duty to support and assist each other.

When one party fails to perform this duty, the party in need of support and assistance has the right to demand that the other party pay the cost of support and assistance.

**Article 15** Parents have the duty to rear and educate their children; children have the duty to support and assist their parents.

When parents fail to perform this duty, their children who are minors or who are not capable of living on their own have the right to demand that their parents pay for their care.



When children fail to perform the duty of supporting their parents, parents who have lost the ability to work or have difficulties in providing for themselves have the right to demand that their children pay for their support.

Infanticide by drowning and any other acts causing serious harm to infants are prohibited.

**Article 16** Children may adopt either their father's or their mother's family name.

**Article 17** Parents have the right and duty to subject their children who are minors to discipline and to protect them. When children who are minors have done harm to the state, to the collective, or to any other person, their parents are in duty bound to compensate for any economic loss.

**Article 18** Husband and wife have the right to inherit each other's property.

Parents and children have the right to inherit each other's property.

**Article 19** Children born out of wedlock enjoy the same rights as children born in lawful wedlock. No person shall harm them or discriminate against them.

The father of a child born out of wedlock must bear part or the whole of the cost of maintenance and education of the child until he or she can live on his or her own.

**Article 20** The state protects lawful adoption. The relevant provisions in this law governing the relations between parents and children are applicable to the rights and duties in the relations between foster-parents and their foster-children.

The rights and duties in the relations between foster-children and their natural parents are terminated on the establishment of relationship of adoption.

**Article 21** No maltreatment or discrimination is allowed between step-parents and their step-children.

The relevant provisions in this law governing the relations between parents and children are applicable to the rights and duties in the relations between step-fathers or step-mothers and their step-children who receive care and education from their step-parents.

**Article 22** Grandparents or maternal grandparents who have the capacity to bear the relevant costs have the duty to rear their grandchildren or maternal grandchildren who are



Peasant women making clothes for their mother-in-law.

minors and whose parents are deceased. Grandchildren or maternal grandchildren who have the capacity to bear the relevant costs have the duty to support and assist their grandparents or maternal grandparents whose children are deceased.

**Article 23** Elder brothers or elder sisters who have the capacity to bear the relevant costs have the duty to rear their minor younger brothers or sisters whose parents either are deceased or have no capacity to rear them.

#### Chapter IV Divorce

**Article 24** Divorce is granted when husband and wife both desire it. Both parties should apply for divorce to the marriage registration office. The marriage registration office, after clearly establishing that divorce is desired by both parties and that appropriate measures have been taken for the care of any children and property, should issue the divorce certificate without delay.

**Article 25** When one party insists on divorce, the organizations concerned may try to effect a reconciliation, or the party may appeal directly to the people's court for divorce.

In dealing with a divorce case, the people's court should try to bring about a reconciliation between the parties. In cases of complete alienation of mutual affection, and when mediation has failed, divorce should be granted.

**Article 26** If the spouse of a member of the armed forces on active service insists on divorce,

consent must be obtained from the member concerned.

**Article 27** The husband is not allowed to apply for a divorce when his wife is pregnant or within one year after the birth of a child. This restriction does not apply in the case of the wife applying for divorce, or when the people's court deems it absolutely necessary to agree to deal with a divorce application by the husband.

**Article 28** After divorce, if both parties desire to resume husband-and-wife relations, they should apply to the marriage registration office for a registration of remarriage. The marriage registration office should accept such a registration.

**Article 29** The blood ties between parents and children are not ended by the divorce of the parents. Whether the father or the mother has the custody of the children, they remain the children of both parties.

After divorce, both parents continue to have the right and duty to rear and educate their children.

The guiding principle after divorce is to allow the mother to have the custody of a breast-fed infant. If a dispute arises between the two parties over the guardianship of a child after weaning and agreement cannot be reached, the people's court should make a judgment in accordance with the rights and interests of the child and the circumstances of both parties.

**Article 30** If, after divorce, one party is given custody of a child, the other party is responsible for part or all of the necessary cost of the maintenance and education of the child. The two parties should reach an agreement regarding the amount of the cost and the duration of

its payment for such maintenance and education. If such an agreement is lacking, the people's court should make a judgment.

An agreement reached between parents or a judgment made by the people's court in connection with the cost of the maintenance and education of a child does not obstruct the child from making a reasonable request where necessary for either parent to increase the amount decided upon by agreement or by judicial decision.

**Article 31** In case of divorce, the disposal of the property in the joint possession of husband and wife is subject to agreement between the two parties. In cases where agreement cannot be reached, the people's court should make a judgment after taking into consideration the actual state of the family property and the rights and interests of the wife and the child or children.

**Article 32** In cases of divorce, debts incurred jointly by husband and wife during the period of their married life should be paid off out of their joint property. In cases where such property is insufficient to pay off such debts, the two parties should work out an agreement with regard to the payment; if an agreement cannot be reached, the people's court should make a judgment. Debts incurred separately by the husband or wife should be paid off by the party responsible.

**Article 33** In case of divorce, if one party has maintenance difficulties, the other party should render appropriate financial assistance. Both parties should work out an agreement with regard to the details; in case an agreement cannot be reached, the people's court should make a judgment.

Since the implementation of the marriage law, women have enjoyed equal rights with men and large numbers have become leading cadres at various levels.

Left: Chen Lunfen, a model worker and shift leader at a Beijing radio equipment factory, is also a Deputy to the National People's Congress.

Middle: Hu Naizhi (centre), Party branch secretary of a production brigade in a suburb of Beijing.

Right: Tang Sixiao (right), an expert in the coking industry, is now director of the Baotou Iron and Steel Company's coking plant.





## Chapter V By-Laws

**Article 34** Persons violating this law shall be subject to administrative disciplinary measures or legal sanctions according to law and the circumstances.

**Article 35** In cases where the relevant party refuses to execute judgments or rulings regarding maintenance, costs of upbringing or support, or regarding the division or inheritance of property, the people's court has the power to enforce their execution in accordance with the law. The organizations concerned have the duty to assist such execution.

**Article 36** The people's congresses and their standing committees in national autonomous areas may enact certain modifications or sup-

plementary articles in keeping with the principles of this law and in conformity with the actual conditions prevailing among the minority nationalities of the locality in regard to marriage and family relations. But such provisions enacted by autonomous prefectures and autonomous counties must be submitted to the standing committee of the provincial or regional people's congress for ratification. Provisions enacted by autonomous regions must be submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for the record.

**Article 37** This law comes into force from January 1, 1981.

The Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China promulgated on May 1, 1950 shall be repealed as of the date of the coming into force of this law. □

*(Continued from p. 20.)*

readjustment. Judged from a long-term view, those reforms which are rational and indispensable but contradict the present readjustment should be postponed until a more appropriate time. Slowing down and steadying the pace of the restructuring can help the leadership at various levels concentrate their attention on the readjustment and ensure that the restructuring will proceed smoothly. Good conditions for an all-round economic restructuring can be created when the economic readjustment has been well carried out, better proportioning has been achieved in the economy and supply and demand in the market are generally balanced.

**Stability and Unity.** To ensure a smooth advance of our economic readjustment, further political stability is required. It is fundamental to the interests of the people of various nationalities that our present political situation, which is characterized by stability and unity, be continually consolidated and developed.

We must adhere to the four basic principles (the socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship, that is, dictatorship of the proletariat, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought), strengthen socialist democracy and the legal system, strictly ban all illegal activities of elements who are hostile to socialism, and sup-

press criminal activities which sabotage the socialist economy and seriously endanger public security.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the economic readjustment, it is necessary to strengthen ideological and political work so as to revitalize the revolutionary spirit of the broad masses of workers, peasants and intellectuals. It is important to enhance their sense of responsibility, and bring forth their enthusiasm and initiativeness to work hard and do their professional work well. With a spirit of being responsible to the people's cause, government cadres at all levels, particularly leading cadres, should go to the grass-roots level, share weal and woe with the masses, work hard and seriously and responsibly handle various complicated problems.

We must revive and carry forward the Yanan spirit, the revolutionary spirit in the early post-liberation days and the spirit of overcoming hardships in the early 1960s. The present economic situation is obviously different from that in the early 1960s, in the Yanan period and in the early years of the People's Republic. However, the militant spirit evinced in those times of being the first to bear hardship and the last to enjoy comforts and of fearing neither hardship nor death will never be given up and will remain a valuable weapon for us in overcoming all difficulties and achieving victory. □

## Don't Confine Politics to Class Struggle

SINCE the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, it has generally been assumed that politics means class struggle. Hence, political work was understood as merely grasping class struggle and putting politics in command, that is, taking class struggle as the key link.

After the mid-1950s when China's socialist transformation was basically completed and the contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie were mainly solved, the main tasks of the state should have been to protect and develop the productive forces and organize the people throughout the country to transform China from a backward agricultural country into an advanced socialist industrial country in the shortest possible time. However, in the following 20 years or so, things were not done in this way. Rather, political movements were launched with the slogan that class struggle was the key link. Thus, the scope of class struggle was expanded, hurting many people, particularly the intellectuals, and our economic construction suffered from setbacks. On the eve of the downfall of the gang of four, China's national economy was already at the brink of collapse and the people's living standards had not improved the way they should have.

In practice, placing politics on a par with class struggle is

harmful, and in theory, it is untenable. Class struggle cannot possibly be stretched to encompass the breadth of politics. According to China's ancient books and political documents, politics covers a wide range, including state affairs, government affairs, power politics and administrative general plans. In foreign languages, the con-

world bourgeoisie." ("Speech Delivered at an All-Russia Conference of Political Education Workers of Gubernia and Uyezd Education Departments," November 3, 1920.) But, he went on to say in the same paragraph that once the resistance of the class enemies had been suppressed and the political power of the proletariat had been consolidated, the main content of politics would no longer be class struggle and the proletariat should "shift the focus of the struggle to economic policy." From this we can see that Lenin did not take a static view of politics, but re-

We are starting a new column — OPINION DIGEST — which will feature excerpts from significant articles on diverse subjects that have appeared in publications throughout the nation. — Ed.

cept of politics is also quite broad.

Marx, Engels and Lenin never limited politics to the narrow scope of class struggle. Marx and Engels noted in their *Manifesto of the Communist Party*: "The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralize all instruments of production in the hands of the State, i.e., of the proletariat organized as the ruling class; and to increase the total of productive forces as rapidly as possible."

Lenin did once say: "Politics means a struggle between classes; means the relations of the proletariat in its struggle for its emancipation, against the

garded it as something which changed in different periods.

What does politics mean then? It can be explained as the whole activities of a certain class or a certain social group in establishing its own rule and making use of the political power of the state to uphold this rule.

(Excerpts from an article in "Jiaoxue Yu Yanjiu" [Teaching and Studies], No. 4, 1980, Beijing.)





## Just One Creative Method No Good

COMBINING "revolutionary realism and romanticism," which has been defined as the "most scientific creative method in human history," was once set as a pattern for all Chinese writers to follow. Its influence was far-reaching and produced negative consequences.

No harm would have been done had this merely been seen as one creative method. Since any creative method is only the summary of certain creative practices, it naturally has its limitations and its one-sided aspects. Thus, to propagate the creative method of "combining revolutionary realism and romanticism" excessively could only turn it into an anti-scientific dogma or even a "sacred canon," which, after being expanded, could only develop many restrictions on literary creation and stifle artistic democracy.

Literature is valued for its creative qualities. The lasting youthfulness of China's "May 4th" new literature [literature in the vernacular with a thoroughly anti-imperialist and anti-feudal spirit which emerged during the May 4th Movement in 1919. *The Goddess* and other works mentioned later in

this paragraph were representative writings of the period] lies in its daring to shatter the feudal fetters and achieving high standards of creative literature. *The Goddess*, a collection of poems by Guo Moruo, displays a very different creative method than that of the short story *The New Year Sacrifice* by Lu Xun or Mao Dun's novel *Midnight*. In fact, it also is distinctly different from other works by Guo Moruo. Therefore, can we simply assume that one of the methods used by these great writers was "the most scientific" creative method?

Vivid artistic models with varied characteristics can only be created by writers who have

developed a creative method which is in accordance with their own personalities, styles and themes. To ask all writers to use the "most scientific creative method" would, as a Chinese proverb goes, end up in "cutting the feet to suit the shoes"; that is, in killing the creativeness of our writers.

Experience has shown that over-propagating the method of "combining revolutionary realism and romanticism" would only make it into what Lu Xun called a "formula for creating best novels."

(Excerpts from an article by Zhao Zuwu in "Xin Wenxue Luncong" [Essays on New Literature], No. 3, 1980.)

## Earlier Than Malthus

Some people in China's academic circles have asserted that Hong Liangji, a noted scholar in China's Qing Dynasty, stated in two of his articles that the growth of population tended to outrun the growth of production as early as 1793, five years earlier than Malthus.

An article by Wu Deduo in Shanghai's *Wenhui Bao* on December 9, 1980 says: Xu Guangqi, China's famous scientist in the Ming Dynasty, argued in one of his works in 1604 that population would double itself every 30 years. Later in another work he wrote in

1633, Xu reasserted this principle. Malthus pointed out in his *Essay on Population* published in 1798 that population would double itself every 25 years. The two arguments are very close, but the Chinese one was put forth more than a century before the British one.

An article by Shui Mu carried in the same paper on November 24, 1980 says: As early as the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), the philosopher Han Fei asserted that a fast increase in population would lower the people's standard of living, and that the size of the population and the amount of social wealth were decisive factors in historical change.



## ZOOLOGY

## River Dolphin Thrives

A young Chinese river dolphin (*Lipotes vexillifer*) captured by fishermen of Hunan Province on the Changjiang (Yangtze) River 14 months ago (see issue No. 12, 1980) has successfully adapted itself to life in captivity. In fact, the precious mammal has gained almost 23 kilogrammes in weight during this period, and its feeders have recently put it on a special diet because they are afraid it may be getting too fat.



A set of stamps picturing dolphins.

While being captured, the river dolphin, one of China's protected rare species, was seriously injured. Its health subsequently deteriorated due to high fever, infection and skin ulcers. But through careful treatment by researchers and animal handlers at the Wuhan Research Institute of Aquatic Biology, the captured animal made a full recovery last summer and has been healthy ever since.

Scientists and feeders are now putting joint efforts into

an all-round observation and study of the river dolphin. Of particular scientific interest have been its feeding habits, blood cell content and structure, natural regulation of body temperature and highly developed hearing and sonar system. A striking resemblance has been observed between the wave patterns of brain, lungs and bladder of the river dolphin and those of a healthy human being, but the pattern of its electrocardiogram differs significantly from that of man and other mammals.

According to recorded data, river dolphins can live as long as 30 years or more. The captured Changjiang dolphin is now about three years old.

On March 3, a female river dolphin was caught in shallow waters of the Changjiang River near Shanghai. Weighing 55 kilogrammes, it will be paired with the male dolphin captured last year.

Scientists hope to gain more valuable scientific data through continued study of the two animals in the years to come, thus providing conditions for breeding dolphins.

## MINORITY NATIONALITIES

## Preserving Folklores

The folklore of two preliterate minority nationalities, handed down orally since ancient times, has begun to be collected and recorded.

An investigation team of teachers from the Tibet Institute of Nationalities recently paid a four-month visit to villages of the Monba and Loba

nationalities. These two minorities, with a population of 40,000 and 300,000 respectively, inhabit the sparsely populated area at the foot of the Himalayas. The teachers worked together with the local people during the day and, in the evenings, invited them to sing and recite their native stories and legends. Altogether, the team collected more than 300 poems and folk songs, over 40 fairy tales, legends and proverbs, a long narrative poem and a five-act play.

Poetry and songs are the main forms of the Monba folk literature. Their drinking songs and love melodies are particularly praised for depicting the life, customs and desires of these people. Monba poetry, with its strict rhythmical pattern and skilful use of metaphor and hyperbole, has great artistic interest. Similarly, the folk art of the Lobas gives a vivid picture of their early history, and supplies precious material for the study of their rich cultural heritage from ancient times.

## Minority Literature

The first nationally distributed periodical of minority nationality literature was published last month by the Nationality Press in Beijing.

*Literature of the Minority Nationalities* is devoted primarily to creative works of all styles by China's minority nationality writers. Folk and traditional literature, as well as commentaries and critiques, are also included.

The first issue contains works by almost 40 writers, poets and critics from 33 different minority nationalities.





Mathematics students at the Beijing spare-time college.

## EDUCATION

### **Spare-Time College for Beijing's Staff and Workers**

Beijing has recently opened a new spare-time college as part of the national effort to raise the educational level of staff members and workers. The school is one of several hundred spare-time educational facilities throughout the capital.

The new college, which began classes in mid-February, was founded by the Beijing Municipal Council of Trade Unions. The first class of 885 students was chosen by examination from among 3,580 candidates recommended by various factories and production units. The students will attend classes three half-days and two evenings every week and continue to receive full pay. The period of schooling is set at four to five years. Tuition is covered by the units where the students work.

The college offers courses in environmental protection, electronic engineering, Chinese language, mathematics, industrial accounting and statistics. Environmental protection is a relatively new field in China, even in established

institutions of higher learning. It is now being promoted more, particularly in Beijing where environmental concerns are recognized as important but not enough people are trained to work in this area.

The new spare-time college is also preparing to set up classes in economic law and enterprise management in order to meet the growing needs of the city's economic sector. Lecturers and professors from local universities have been invited to teach at the college.

Among Beijing's staff members and workers, less than 4 per cent have received a college education. Almost 80 per cent only have a junior middle school education or less. Now more than 500,000 of them are studying in various kinds of spare-time schools and TV colleges, including 50,000 who had previously received a comprehensive higher education.

## RECREATION

### **Rural Cultural Centre**

How do China's 800 million peasants spend their spare time? What are they doing to enrich their cultural life? The example of a commune located 100 kilometres northwest of

Beijing provides some answers to these questions.

North China's Xinbaoan People's Commune, with a population of 13,000, expanded its cultural facilities in 1975 with the construction of a new culture and recreation centre. The 90,000 yuan required to set up the centre came from the commune's own public accumulation fund, derived from agricultural production and the more than 20 factories and workshops on the commune. The centre includes a library, a reading room, recreation rooms, a flood-lit basketball court, an open-air cinema and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 800.

The centre is self-sustaining. Operational costs last year, including pay for the five staff members, were almost completely covered by the income from the more than 500 film showings at the centre. Film viewers pay five or ten fen for a ticket, less than the cost of an egg.

The centre is open in the evenings on weekdays and all day on Sundays and holidays. Two to three thousand people come every day to see films and take part in other activities. An 84-year-old peasant who lives nearby reported that he now views about a dozen films every month—more than he saw in an entire year before the centre was built.

A local amateur theatrical troupe often presents plays, song and dance shows, original operas and story telling performances in the centre's auditorium. In return, the centre provides the troupe with rehearsal space and directing assistance. Lectures and training courses have also been held for amateur painters, singers, musicians, dancers and athletes living on the commune.



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